

REMARKS

This response responds to the Office Action dated September 24, 2003 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112 first and second paragraphs.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledges the priority document filed July 6, 2001.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 21, 2002. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and a stamped postcard are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

The Examiner stated that Figure 1 does not have support for separating and supplying a plurality of randomly introduced electronic parts one by one such as shown by supplying means 16 of Figure 1. Applicants respectfully point out that the supply means refers to the parts feeder 10 shown in Figure 1 and discussed in paragraph 0046 of the specification which states "a parts feeder 10 serving as a supply means...." Additionally, Applicant respectfully brings the Examiner's attention to paragraph 0048 which states: "A vibratory parts feeder 10, composed of a vibrator 13 and linear feeder 15, is mounted on movable table 12." Additionally, Applicant respectfully brings the Examiner's attention to paragraph 0049 and Figures

6 and 7 which clearly shows how the supplying means separates and supplies a plurality of randomly introduced electronic parts one by one.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 19 and 20 contain subject matter which is described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 first paragraph.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. The claims have been reviewed in light of the Office Action, and for reasons which will be set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to the claims and allows the claims to issue.

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that it is unclear what the removal means represents or where it is shown in any of the drawings. Applicant respectfully brings the Examiner's attention to Figure 2 reference numeral 39, Figure 3 reference numeral 39 as well as to the description found in paragraph 0057. In particular, paragraph 0057 states: "After the electronic parts C are passed through all the measuring devices 33, they are sorted into good parts and defective parts, or the like and are removed by the removal section 39...." In addition please see paragraph 0058 which also discusses the removal section 39.

As indicated above, since the removal means is clearly disclosed within the specification and the drawings, claims 1, 19 and 20 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 10-11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Since withdrawn claims 2, 4, 7, 9 and 12 depend from allowable claims, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims also be allowed.

The prior art of record, which is not relied upon, is acknowledged. The reference taken singularly or in combination does not anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the current set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

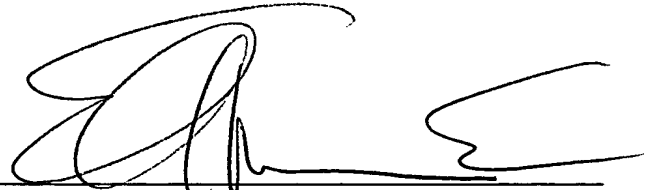
In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: March 16, 2004

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Marcie Ermas', written over a horizontal line.

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